

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WALTER GORDON COMMENTS ON CANADIAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE REPORT
ON CANADIAN AMERICAN RELATIONS - MEDIA REACTION

REF: TORONTO 1129; TORONTO 1108

1. IN A BACKGROUNDER ON THE CANADIAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE'S RECENT REPORT

ON CANADAIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS (REFTELS) IN AUGUST 6 TORONTO STAR,
WRITER QUOTES STAR DIRECTOR AND LEADING CANADAIN NATIONALIST, WALTER
GORDON AS SAYING COMMITTEE TAKES AN "ELEMENTARY ECONOMIC APPROACH
WITHOUT GIVING PROPER WEIGHT TO POLITICAL AND NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS."

THE RESULT IS A BIAS IN FAVOR OF CANADA-U.S. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION -
IN OTHER WORDS CONTINENTALISM.

2. ARTICLE SAYS "HE (GORDON) JOINED THE (CANADAIN AMERICAN) COMMITTEE
WHEN IT WAS FORMED IN 1957 AND RESIGNED WHEN HE WENT INTO POLITICS
FIVE YEARS LATER. BY THAT TIME, HE SAYS, 'I WAS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC

WITH WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE BIAS OF THE COMMITTEE.' GORDON SAYS THE
COMMITTEE WAS CREATED 'BASICALLY...BY A GROUP OF SUBSIDIARIES OF
AMERICAN CONCERNS - AND BOTH THOSE CANADIAN SUBSIDIARIES AND
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THOSE AMERICAN CONCERNS PUT UP A LOT OF THE MONEY."

3. ARTICLE FURTHER QUOTES ONE OF THE REPORT'S U.S. AUTHORS, TED GEIGER, AS SAYING THAT HE HAS ENCOUNTERED ACTIVE ANTI-AMERICANISM OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS BUT "HASN'T OBSERVED ANY GENERAL AMERICAN HOSTILITY - YET - TOWARD WHAT THE REPORT DESCRIBES AS CANADIAN EFFORTS 'NOT ONLY TO REDUCE A PERCEIVED "VULNERABILITY" TO THE UNITED STATES BUT TO CARVE OUT A MORE DISTINCT CANADIAN "IDENTITY" IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

4. ROBERT FOWLER, PRESIDENT OF C.D. HOWE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WHICH CO-SPONSORS COMMITTEE TOGETHER WITH NATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION, QUOTED AS CALLING REPORT 'JUST ABOUT AS SIMPLE A STATEMENT AS SAYING THAT YOU MIGHT AS WELL CO-OPERATE WITH YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR. I THINK I'M AS GOOD A CANADIAN AS ANYBODY ELSE IS. J'M JUST ARGUING FOR REASONABLE, CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR WHEN YOU HAPPEN TO SHARE THE SAME CONTINENT.'
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